Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

In accordance with amendment practice pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(i), presented below is a "clean" set of "rewritten claims." A "marked up" version of these claims is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin binder, calculated based on the total weight of the composition thereof.

8. (Amended) A compressed tablet formed from a powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin binder, based on the total weight of the composition.

14. (Amended) A process for preparing a powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) forming a fluidized bed comprising fluidized particles of L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

(b) spraying from about 0.1 % to about 10% by weight of a pectin binder onto the fluidized particles of L-ascorbic acid.

Please add the following claims:

--19. A method of binding a powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) forming a fluidized bed comprising fluidized particles of L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

(b) spraying from about 0.1 % to about 10% by weight of a pectin binder onto the fluidized particles of L-ascorbic acid to bind the powder or granule composition formed.

20. A method of making a compressed tablet with improved color stability and tablet hardness comprising:

(a) forming a fluidized bed comprising fluidized particles of L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

(b) spraying from about 0.1 % to about 10% by weight of a pectin binder onto the fluidized particles of L-ascorbic acid to form a powder or granule composition; and

(c) forming a compressed tablet from the powder or granule composition.

21. A method of binding L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof comprising:

(a) forming a fluidized bed comprising fluidized particles of L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

(b) spraying from about 0.1 % to about 10% by weight of a pectin binder onto the fluidized particles of L-ascorbic acid to form a powder or granule composition.--

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite "pectin binder." Support for the amendment of claims 1 and 8 is found in the specification at, for example, page 3, line 34, and in original claims 1 and 8, respectively. *In re Gardner*, 177 USPQ 396, 397 (CCPA 1973) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and (l).